



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE  
for CRVS Systems

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# SNAPSHOT

OF CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS SYSTEMS OF

# ANGOLA



ECA

## Program information

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Housed at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Centre of Excellence for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Systems is a global knowledge and resource hub that actively supports national efforts to develop, strengthen, and scale-up CRVS systems. It collaborates with organizations and experts to broker access to information and expertise, including global standards, tools, research evidence, and relevant good practice.

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## Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief overview of the civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system in the Republic of Angola.

The information was collected through a questionnaire completed by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, coordinated by the National Directorate for Identification, Registries and Notaries, in March 2021 and supplemented by a desk review of available documents.

Among other things, the report presents:

- Background information on the country;
- Selected indicators relevant for CRVS improvement processes;
- Stakeholders' activities; and
- Resources available and needed to strengthen CRVS systems.

The report will also serve as an important benchmarking tool for the improvement initiatives of other countries.

## Brief country profile

The Republic of Angola is located on the west coast of Southern Africa. It is the seventh-largest country in Africa and is bordered by Namibia to the south, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the north, Zambia to the east, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. Angola has an exclave province, Cabinda Province, that borders the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Angola is divided into 18 provinces (*provincias*) and 162 municipalities. The municipalities are further divided into 559 communes (townships). The population grew from 11.85 million in 1990 to 16.40 million in 2000 to 23.36 million in 2010 to 30.81 million in 2018.



*Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.*

- Land area: 1,246,700 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population: 32,097,671 (2021 projection), with an annual growth rate of 3.3 percent<sup>1</sup>
- Capital city: Luanda
- Official working language: Portuguese; national languages: Chokwe, Kikongo, Kimbundu, Umbundu
- Ministry responsible for civil registration: Ministry of Justice and Human Rights
- Civil registration agency: National Directorate for Identification, Registries and Notaries
- National statistical office: National Statistics Institute (INE)

## CRVS dimensions

Births	
Completeness of birth registration	77% (2020)
Children under 5 years of age whose births were reported as registered	25% (2016) <sup>2</sup>
Births attended by skilled health personnel	50% (2017) <sup>3</sup>
Women aged 15–49 who received antenatal care from a skilled provider	61% (2016) <sup>4</sup>
DPT1 immunization coverage among 1-year-olds <sup>5</sup>	50% (2018) <sup>6</sup>
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population)	40.73 (2018) <sup>7</sup>
Total fertility rate (live births per woman)	5.5 (2018) <sup>8</sup>
Adolescent fertility rate (per 1,000 girls aged 15–19 years)	148 (2018) <sup>9</sup>
Population under age 15 years	3.53% (2020)
Institutional deliveries: percentage of deliveries in a health facility	Not available
Deaths	
Completeness of death registration	0.2% (2020)
Crude death rate (per 1,000 population)	7.8 (2020) <sup>10</sup>
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	50 (2019) <sup>11</sup>
Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	75 (2019) <sup>12</sup>
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	241 (2019) <sup>13</sup>
Marriages and divorces	
Marriage registration rate	6.54% (2020)
Women aged 20–24 first married or in union before age 15	Not available
Women aged 20–24 first married or in union before age 18	30% (2016) <sup>14</sup>
Divorce registration rate	Not available
Vital statistics including causes of death data	
Compilation and dissemination of civil registration-based statistics	Not available
Medically certified causes of death	Not available

## Civil registration system

At the time of national independence in 1975, Angola inherited an underdeveloped civil registration system based on a Civil Registry Code that was largely outdated. Soon after independence, a civil war broke out.

In 2002, Angola ended four decades of conflict that had far-reaching effects on the population: an estimated 1 million people were killed, and a third of the population was displaced. Since then, Angola has made considerable progress in rebuilding its physical infrastructure. The National Directorate for Identification, Registries and Notaries is implementing the Civil Registry and Identity Card Distribution Program, which has about 203 units and 1,020 collection points; nationwide, about 1,200 units are deployed. The program was recently reinforced through fixed posts, with new computer materials and new civil register books to guarantee efficient work.

The Born with Registration project, which aims to ensure that all maternity hospitals in the country have civil registration services, is expanding.

A total of 1,901,202 births were registered in the national civil registration system in 2020. This number was reached according to the *Programa de Massificação do Registo de Nascimento e Atribuição do Bilhete de Identidade* (Universal Birth Registration and Identity Card Program), part of the identity card in progress since November 2019.

## Legislative framework

Civil registration in Angola is guided by the following legislation:

- *Decree-Law No. 47678, Civil Registration Code of 5 May 1967.*
- *Law No. 6/15 of 8 May, Law to simplify the Civil Registration of Birth, Revision Law No. 4/2021.*
- *Law No. 1/88 of 20 February: Family Code.*
- Presidential Decree No. 105/16 of 20 May: on the regulation of Law No. 6/15 of 8 May 2007.
- Presidential Decree No. 301/19 of 16 October: Standardizes and simplifies the fee schedules. The aim of the new statute is to standardize and simplify fees and approve the schedules of fees and charges due for services provided by said public entities. This statute became effective on 16 October 2019.
- Presidential Decree No. 36/15 of 30 January: on the legal regime of the de facto union, an act that legalizes the union of two people of the opposite sex who have cohabited for more than three years.

As part of the country's National Development Plan 2012–2017, the government committed to providing "Full protection for the rights of the Child with a view to the full, effective, and permanent enjoyment of principles recognized in national legislation and in the international treaties of which the country is a signatory, establishing an effective Agenda for the Defense of the Rights of the Child."<sup>15</sup>

In 2013, Presidential Decree No. 80/13 guaranteed free registration for all Angolan citizens until 2016.<sup>16</sup> This was the basis for the Universal Birth Registration and Identity Card Program, launched the same year. It aimed to increase registration and decrease the backlog of undocumented citizens by providing free registration and identity cards for all, and to ensure the registration of all unregistered Angolans (estimated to be 8 million) by 31 December 2016.<sup>17</sup>



## Management, organization, and operations

The entities responsible for the registration of vital events and identification are:

- Ministry of Justice and Human Rights;
- Ministry of Health; and
- Ministry of Economy and Planning (National Statistics Institute).

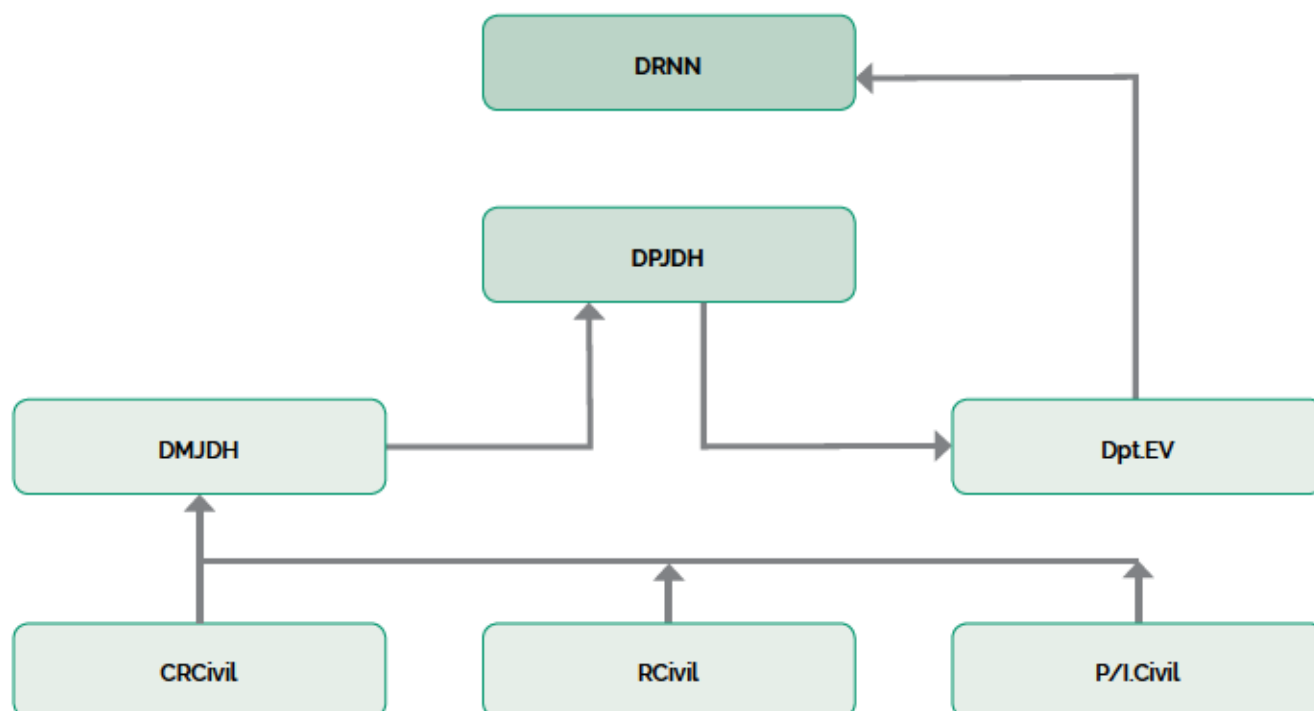
The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights is the only body responsible for the organization, production, treatment, and provision of civil registry services. The National Directorate for Identification, Registries and Notaries (DRNN) is responsible for the oversight of civil registration and identification at the national/central level. The Provincial Delegation for Justice and Human Rights (DPJDH)

operates at the provincial level. The Municipal Delegation of Justice and Human Rights (DMJDH) is at the municipal level; it oversees the Civil Registry Office (CRCivil), Civil Registry Service (RCivil), Department of Vital Statistics (Dpt.EV), and the Civil Identification Post (P/I.Civil), which are based on the lowest administrative unit.

The current Civil Registry Code establishes the obligation to communicate, declare, and register events. It guarantees the principles of universality, continuity, and permanence of services; defines the functions and competencies of civil registry personnel; and provides for the statistical function of vital events.

The law covers all geographic areas of the country, including nationals and refugees.

Figure 1: Civil registration flow chart.



### *National CRVS systems coordination mechanisms*

The coordination mechanisms in Angola are being formalized. A multi-sectoral technical working group is being set up, which will include the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the Ministry of Economy and Planning, and the Ministry of Health. A memorandum of understanding has been drawn up and is awaiting signature by the ministers.

### *Administrative-level registration centres*

The lowest administrative unit where local civil registration offices are found is at the parish (municipality) level. There are 335 civil registration centres and 3,051 civil registration officers in Angola.

### *Accessibility of civil registration services*

The average distance to a civil registration centre is less than 1 km. Most people travel to these centres on foot or by car.

### *Registration of vital events*

The events covered by the civil registration system are listed in Table 1.

**Table 1: Events covered by the civil registration system.**

Vital events	Is event covered?	Are definitions aligned to UN-suggested definitions?
Live birth	Yes	Yes
Death	Yes	Yes
Marriage	Yes	Yes
Divorce	Yes	Yes
Adoptions	Yes	Yes
Other:	Union of Fact	Yes

The legal framework for **birth registration** is stipulated in:

- *Law 47678 on the Civil Registry Code* (5 May 1967);
- Decree 31/07 (14 May 2007);
- Decree 80/13 (5 September 2013); and
- *Birth Simplification Act*, 2015.

The mother, father, relative/caregiver, nurse, midwife, traditional birth attendant, and community health workers are mandated declarants for birth registration. The Civil Registry Code, article 120, lists any person other than the mother or father who is authorized to declare a birth to the civil registrar.

Requirements for birth registration include:

- Identification of the child's parent;
- Presence of the parents at the time of registration when they are not officially married;
- When the parents are officially married, the presence of one of them with the documentation of both is sufficient;
- Birth notification from the hospital (to obtain the date of birth);
- Immunization card (to obtain the date of birth if the child is not born at the hospital); and
- Child's name.

The key data elements collected at birth registration include:

- **Child:** name, sex, date of birth, date of registration, place of occurrence, place of registration, type of birth (single or multiple), attendant at birth, and type of place of occurrence (hospital, home, etc.);
- **Mother of the child:** place of usual residence and occupation; and
- **Father of the child:** place of usual residence and occupation.



A birth certificate is required for education, vaccination, identification, and travel. The time allowed for registration is 30 days by law; children aged 0 to 5 years are entitled to free birth registration. A first birth certificate is issued free of charge and is provided together with the report (*cedula*) upon registration. Birth certificates expire after one year from issuance, and there is a fee for reissuing a certificate.

Regarding late registration, the Civil Registry Code, article 121, provides that:

"Once the legal deadline has elapsed, civil registration officials and administrative authorities shall inform the Public Prosecutor, who shall not only prosecute the person required to make the declaration, but also the verification, in the same process, of the elements necessary to draw up the register at the expense of the person responsible. Equal participation may be made by any person, even without special interest in registration. If there is no one who can be held criminally responsible for the lack of the declaration, the process will only be used to record the record; in this case, the Public Prosecution Service shall order the appropriate steps to collect the necessary information and shall request the court of the district, after obtaining them, to order the registration to be carried out officially."

The legal framework for **death registration** in Angola is stipulated in *Law 47678 of the Civil Registry Code* (5 May 1967). The mandated legal informant to register a death is:

- Head of the family residing in the house where the death occurs (except when they are absent);
- Nearest capable relative of the deceased;
- Relatives of the deceased;

- Administrator, director, or manager of the public or private establishment where the death occurred;
- Minister of any religion present at the time of death or who has been called to render religious assistance to the deceased;
- Administrative or police authorities, in the case where the corpse has been abandoned; or
- Person or entity in charge of the funeral

The time period allowed for death registration is 48 hours.

At registration, no fee is paid, but penalties are charged for late registration. The declarants are required to have a death declaration, which is issued upon presentation of the death certificate, free of charge by the doctor following the template provided by the Directorate General for Health, or, in the absence of printed matter, on plain paper free of stamps. If no certificate is presented, the civil registry official who receives the declaration requests the local health authority to verify the death certificate.

The key data elements collected at death registration include:

- **Deceased:** name, sex, date of birth or age, place of usual residence, and marital status;
- **Death:** date of death, date of registration, place of occurrence, place of registration, cause of death, and cemetery;
- **Fetal deaths:** date of fetal delivery, date of registration, place of occurrence, place of registration, sex of the fetus, and duration of the pregnancy (in months or weeks).

A death certificate is required for inheritance and for tracking communicable diseases.

There is a penalty for late registration. The civil code stipulates that:

"Once the legal deadline has elapsed without the declaration of death being made, civil registry officials and administrative authorities should inform the Public Prosecutor's Office, which will promote not only criminal proceedings against the person required to provide the declaration, but also the verification, in the same process, of the necessary elements to draw the record at the expense of the person in charge. However, if the death occurred more than one year ago, participation in court will only have the purpose of prosecuting the person responsible for the transgression. This though remains to be verified whether it's the same in practice."

The legal framework for **marriage registration** in Angola is provided for in the Civil Registry Code – Law No. 47678 (5 May 1967) and the Family Code – Law No. 1/88 (20 February 1988).

The legal age for marriage is 18 years for both sexes. The exemption is that boys may be allowed to marry at age 16 and girls at 15, considering the circumstances of the case and taking into account the interests of minors as to whether marriage is the best solution (Family Code, article 24).

The place of registration is the National Directorate for Registry and Notary Services, Ministry of Justice.

The requirements for marriage registration and divorce are as follows:

- **For marriage of national citizens:** birth certificate, photocopy of identity card, and military declaration (for male citizens age 35 or over);
- **For marriage of foreign citizens:** birth certificate, residence certificate, passport or photocopy authenticated by the notary office, and matrimonial capacity certificate. Documents issued by foreign institutions must pass through the consulate of Angola of the country of origin; and
- **For divorce:** birth certificates for the couple, residence certificate, and photocopy of identity card. If the couple has assets, they must present the agreement of division of property. If they have minor children, they must present the parental exercise certificate issued by the provincial court of Luanda (Family Room).

The following information is collected in the marriage register:

- **Spouses:** date of birth or age of bride, place of usual residence of bride, date of birth or age of groom, place of usual residence of groom, and occupation of the spouses; and
- **Marriage:** date of occurrence, date of registration, place of occurrence, and place of registration.

A marriage certificate is used to prove evidence of marriage.

### *Backlog of unregistered births*

The estimated backlog of unregistered births (any births that are unregistered after 1 year) or the estimated backlog of vital events is about 7 million birth records, which accounts for 23 percent of the estimated births registered population backlog.

### *Sample registration forms*

Registration forms are processed manually (on paper). Some registration offices (such as in Luanda Province) capture information electronically. Samples of registration forms and certificates can be found on the UNICEF Angola website.<sup>18</sup>

- **Birth Registration Form**

## Registration fee

The costs of registering and certifying vital events are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2: Fees for registration of vital events.**

Vital event	Registration fees	Registration cost (USD)	Remarks
Birth	No	Free	
Marriage	Yes	7.82	
Divorce	Yes	55.74	
Death	Yes	0.72	From (0) to (5) - Fee waived

**Table 3: Fees for issuing vital events certificates.**

Vital event	Certification fees	Certification cost (USD)	Remarks
Birth	No	5.87	First birth certificate is provided at no cost
Marriage	Yes	7.41	
Divorce	Yes	5.87	
Death	Yes	5.87	

## Vital statistics system

### Vital statistics

The National Statistics Institute of Angola is a public service whose purpose is to ensure the production and dissemination of official statistics as well as the technical and scientific coordination of the national statistical system. The institute's main aim is to contribute to informed decision-making on the sustainable development of the country.

To create vital statistics, civil registration officials are responsible for filling in the demographic statistical records for births, marriages, deaths, and stillbirths soon after registration.

Once the entries are signed and separated by type, with a note indicating their number, they are to be sent to the National Statistics Institute.

Additional entries of the births and deaths declared in the civil registry offices are completed and sent to the civil registrar's office with the declaration notices.

The registration of vital events covers all segments of the population and all geographic areas in the country. The completeness of the registration of vital events is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Current level of completeness of registration of vital events in the country.

Vital event	Completeness of registration (%) <sup>19</sup>				Remarks
	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Live birth	2.8	3.7	5	5	
Marriage	0.4	0.5	0.5	1.3	
Divorce	0.04	0.006	0.01	0.02	Calculation based on received divorce proceedings
Death	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	

## Causes of death

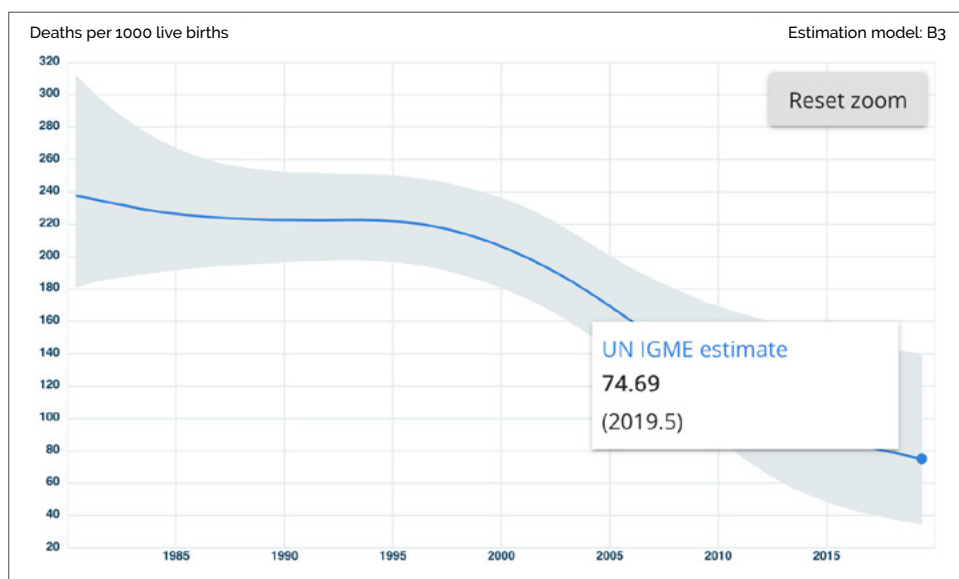
Table 5: Cause-of-death information collected through the civil registration system.

Cause of death (COD)	Is COD information collected through the civil registration system?	Is the Standard International Form of Medical Certificate for COD used for recording deaths?
For deaths occurring in health facilities	Yes	Yes
For natural deaths occurring in the communities	Yes	Yes
For non-natural deaths occurring in the communities	Yes	Yes

For non-institutional deaths, verbal autopsy tools or methods are used if the deceased is taken to the mortuary before burial. Cause-of-death information is collected and the cause of death is coded according to the International Classification of Diseases, version 10 (ICD-10).

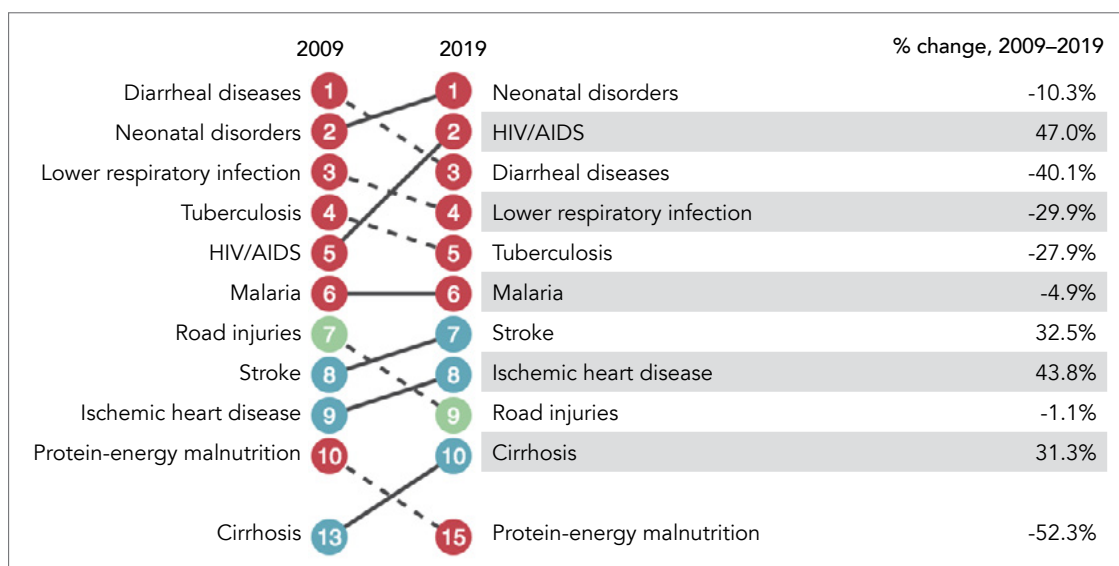
The UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation lists under-5 mortality rates at 74.69 deaths per 1,000 as of 2019 (Figure 2).<sup>20</sup>

Figure 2: Mortality rate for children under 5.



Health data identifies the leading causes of death in Angola from 2009 to 2019 as neonatal disorders, HIV/AIDS, and diarrheal diseases (Figure 3).<sup>21</sup>

Figure 3: The most common causes of death between 2009 and 2019 in Angola.





## Digitization

Angola has a functional national identification system; however, it is not linked to the civil registration system, which is currently being implemented.

Decree-Law No. 224/20 of 31 August 2014 merged the National Directorate of Civil Identification and the National Directorate of Civil and Notary

Registries. The result led to the creation of the National Directorate for Identification, Registries and Notaries, part of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. The national directorate is planning to merge the systems of the two previous directorates.

## Computerization

The use of computers in CRVS is outlined in Table 6.

**Table 6: Computer use in CRVS.**

Centre	Are computers used for civil registration?	Remarks
Local registrars across the country	Yes	In rural areas, where access is difficult, there is no civil registration infrastructure. Books of registration and attribution of personal certificates are used for further digitization.
Urban centres	Yes	
Health facilities	Yes	

### *Online registration services at health facilities*

No information was provided.

### *Mobile technology application*

No information was provided.

### *Unique identification number*

Steps are currently underway for a functioning unique identification number.

### *Digitization of historical registration records*

Currently underway.

### *Link with the identification system*

Because civil registration gives access to the identity document, people must have a birth certificate to access the identity document. Since 1999, the national ID of Angola, the *bilhete de identidade*, has been available for US\$0.14. National IDs are mandatory when the citizen reaches age 10 and can be obtained as of age 6.

Angola has been issuing digital IDs to its citizens since 2009. These are modelled on the permanent resident green card of the United States and are valid for 10 years. The new ID system was designed to safeguard personal data while also storing substantial amounts of information directly on the card, including two thumbprint biometrics and iris images, a birth certificate, and demographic data. The cards easily allow inspectors to match individuals to their biometrics.

The frequent lack of connectivity has made offline authentication necessary, leading Angola to deploy mobile data capture and card issuance units. Data from these units are sent back to the centre via secure satellite transmission or are uploaded in batches. The mobile units enable collection and validation of an applicant's personal data and control of the quality of the biometric images captured. The aim is to ensure reliable future ID verification.

The credential has strong visual security attributes, laser-engraving, and data encoding onto the optical security media, as well as machine-readable technology: bar code, machine-readable text, and optical security media.

It also has sufficient capacity for all required demographic and biometric information. All of the information saved on the card can be accessed, and new biometrics or personal data can be added by authorized personnel to help prevent obsolescence and fraud.<sup>22</sup>

### ***Data protection and data privacy***

Angola regulates data privacy and protection issues under the *Personal Data Protection Law* (Law No. 22/11, 17 June 2011), the *Electronic Communications and Information Society Services Law* (Law No. 23/11, 20 June 2011), and the *Protection of Information Systems and Networks Law* (Law No. 7/17, 16 February 2017).<sup>23</sup>

The legislation covering personal data protection is the *Personal Data Protection Law*. Angola has had a data protection agency since 2019. As of 2014, Angola was in the process of introducing amendments to existing legislation to further simplify the processes of birth registration and the issuance of national ID cards to all of its citizens.

## **Interface with other sectors and operations**

Angola is building an interface to link the birth registration and identification databases to the Ministry of Interior's data collection for passport issuance. The National Institute for Social Security (INSS) database for social protection and the Ministry of Finance database for fiscal and financial identification are interconnected.

## **Improvement initiatives and external support**

### **Improvement plan and budget**

There is no strategic plan for the National Directorate for Identification, Registries and Notaries. The plan will emerge with the creation and approval of the multi-sectoral technical working group that is underway.

### ***Budgetary allocations and requirements***

No information was provided.

### ***Activities identified as high priorities***

Some of the upcoming priorities in the country's or Civil Registration Office's planning cycle include:

- Completion of civil registration computerization throughout the national territory;
- Completion of the digitizing of birth records and processes in books; and
- Completion of the civil registry database that links social services to citizens.

## Conclusion

The Republic of Angola has taken great strides in improving its CRVS system. Some notable achievements are:

- Carrying out awareness campaigns and disseminating the benefits of registration, especially in rural areas;
- Waiving fees to access registration services: for example, the first birth certificate is issued at no cost;
- Using booklets, banners, media, and social networks to communicate the processes and notify the public about where to find civil registration offices in their area;
- Creating mass campaigns for birth registration and the issuing of identity cards; and
- Modernizing the departments responsible for birth registration and identity card distribution, unified in a single department, to provide a quick response to citizens' needs.

The National Directorate for Identification, Registries and Notaries is continuously working on solutions to improve service delivery. Some of its recommendations for achieving more effective and efficient coordination among national key stakeholders at country level include:

- Committing to the schedule and fulfillment of the established actions developed as part of the roadmap to improving civil registration in Angola;
- Strengthening the coordination and communication mechanisms between member institutions of the Technical Working Group for Civil Registration;
- Lobbying for the highest levels of government to be involved;
- Encouraging greater action by intervening bodies in terms of evaluating and supervising compliance with actions and goals; and
- Periodic debriefings at the ministerial level, including organizing a monthly meeting to monitor operations and make decisions.



## Resources

### Websites

Ministry of Justice and Human Rights:  
[servicos.minjusdh.gov.ao/outros-servicos-ao-cidadao/37/registo-civil](https://servicos.minjusdh.gov.ao/outros-servicos-ao-cidadao/37/registo-civil)

National Institute of Statistics of Angola:  
[ine.gov.ao](https://ine.gov.ao)

Republic of Angola Government Portal:  
[governo.gov.ao/ao](https://governo.gov.ao/ao)

UNICEF Angola: [data.unicef.org/crvs/angola](https://data.unicef.org/crvs/angola)

World Health Organization (WHO) Angola:  
[who.int/countries/ago](https://who.int/countries/ago)

### Additional materials

LexLink. 1967. *Law 47678 on the Civil Registry Code* (5 May 1967). [data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/codigo-do-registo-civil-decreto-lei-no-47-678-de-5-de-maio-de-1967\\_2017-04-06-11-50-48-185.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/codigo-do-registo-civil-decreto-lei-no-47-678-de-5-de-maio-de-1967_2017-04-06-11-50-48-185.pdf)

LexLink. 1988. *Law No. 1/88 (20 February 1988) Family Code*. [data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/codigo-da-familia-lei-no-188-de-20-de-fevereiro\\_2017-04-06-02-16-27-890.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/codigo-da-familia-lei-no-188-de-20-de-fevereiro_2017-04-06-02-16-27-890.pdf)

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## Endnotes

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- 2 UNICEF. n.d. Angola. UNICEF Data: Monitoring the situation of children and women. [data.unicef.org/country/ago](http://data.unicef.org/country/ago)
- 3 UNICEF Angola. [data.unicef.org/country/ago/](http://data.unicef.org/country/ago/)
- 4 Ibid.
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